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ABSTRACT

In this 23-minute videotape, a panel of 13 women and men of various racial and ethic backgrounds who are enrolled in a high school equivalency program in Bloomfield, Connecticut, share their thoughts about participation in adult education. In the first part of the tape, the panel members explain why they decided to return to school (desire to make family members proud, obtain a job or advance in a job, boost self-esteem). Next, the panel turns to a discussion of the trials and difficulties they face as older students (the pressure of balancing family and school and family and work, transportation and child care problems, and the pressure of being older than one's classmates). In the third segment of the tape, which is devoted to rewards, benefits, and accomplishments, the panelists explain how adult education has benefited them at home, in church, in the community, and in the workplace. Next, the panelists detail the support structures that have helped them remain in their adult education program. Special attention is paid to family and peer support. In the final segment of the tape, participants offer encouragement and advice to other adults who are considering enrolling in an adult education program. (MN)

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